

# THE OLD PATHS

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## “Preach The Word”

Jarrold Jacobs

**P**aul wrote to Timothy and said, *“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine”* (II Tim. 4:2). It is good to remind ourselves what is involved in preaching. May these lines help us appreciate what Paul meant when he wrote to Timothy, telling him to preach the word *“in season and out of season.”*

- When the battles rage (II Cor. 10:5) – *“preach the word ...”*
- When peace abounds (Acts 9:31) – *“preach the word ...”*
- When we are weary (Gal. 6:9) – *“preach the word ...”*
- When we are strong (Phil. 4:13) – *“preach the word ...”*
- When we are loved (Ezek. 33:32) – *“preach the word ...”*
- When we are hated (Jn. 15:18) – *“preach the word ...”*
- When there is national turmoil (Judg. 6:8-10) – *“preach the word ...”*
- When the nations of the world love us (Lk. 6:26) –  
*“preach the word ...”*
- When the economics are depressed (II Kings 6:19-33) –  
*“preach the word ...”*
- When we are *“increased with goods”* (I Tim. 6:17-19) –  
*“preach the word ...”*
- When we are tempted not to ... (II Tim. 4:3-4) –  
*“preach the word ...”*
- When friends/family are in sin (Matt. 10:37) – *“preach the word ...”*
- When we are by ourselves (II Tim. 4:16) – *“preach the word ...”*
- When “all men” love it (II Tim. 4:2) – *“preach the word ...”*
- When we are old (Phile. 9) – *“preach the word ...”*
- When we are young (Jer. 1:7-10) – *“preach the word ...”*
- When we know it will not be appreciated (Ezek. 3:8-9) –  
*“preach the word ...”*
- When others introduce a “better way to win folks” (Gal. 1:8-9) –  
*“preach the word ...”*
- When it means being fired (Mk. 8:36-37) – *“preach the word ...”*

Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths,  
where is the good way ...” (Jer. 6:16).

- When it means having to quit our job (Matt. 6:33) –  
“*preach the word ...*”
- When it means losing our lives (Rev. 2:10; Mk. 8:35) –  
“*preach the word ...*”

Preaching the gospel is not for the faint-of-heart! Let us take our work in the Lord seriously (I Cor. 15:58)!

## From Whom Do You Seek Counsel?

Joel Raulerson

**W**hen we have grievances among our brethren, to whom do we go for counsel? Where do we look for advice to settle our disputes? Most likely, we seek advice for our problems from spouses, friends, or coworkers. However, are we seeking advice from spiritually-minded friends or from the unrighteous? In 1 Corinthians 6:1-4, Paul says, “*When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! So, if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church?*”

Paul is telling the brethren at Corinth how foolish it is to seek counsel on matters of righteousness from the world. There is more to the command than just forbidding Christians to go to the law over grievances. Paul asks why would we want those who do not follow God’s law to settle matters of doctrine? This would be like asking a construction worker how to cure your cancer. A construction worker can be of great help when trying to build your house. However, he does not have the knowledge or training to help you with your illness like a doctor has. I’ve had multiple family members struggle with cancer and I’ve never heard of one going to a construction worker to ask for advice on how to cure their disease. Now, when we are looking to settle disputes among brethren in a godly manner, from whom are we seeking counsel? 1 Corinthians 6:5-6 tells us, “*I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers?*”

Paul is telling the Corinthian brethren that it is shameful to seek advice from the worldly and unrighteous when God is supplying us with brethren to aid us with our problems (Jas. 5:16). Why then would we choose to take matters of contention before those who do not hold God’s word as the highest authority?

**Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way ...” (Jer. 6:16).**

This does not mean that we can never seek advice from those who are not Christians. Qualified medical professionals, psychiatrists, and counselors can give great advice and be very helpful. Parents and other family members can offer wisdom and will often look out for you and try to help you. Many grapple with mental and medical issues that often need to be examined by professionals. Lawyers can even be helpful when dealing with getting permits and defending ourselves in certain legal cases that we may face as Christians. Just as there are qualified professionals in any field that we go to for advice, there are brethren we can turn to for advice. Many elders and older brethren are hopefully well studied in the scripture and will give you godly advice. However, we must make sure that we compare whatever advice we are given to the Gospel. Just as it is advisable to get a second opinion from other medical professionals, we should seek counsel from God's word. Does the help we are looking for agree with God's teachings?

We must avoid going to people of the world to settle disputes among brethren. After we have chosen to no longer walk in darkness, why would we go back to the darkness to find help in spiritual matters (1 Jn. 5:1-7; Eph. 4:17-18)? Those who are not Christians do not have the same morals we do. In contrast, we have a plethora of spiritually-minded counselors and advisors at our disposal in the church that want to help us in any way that they can. Take advantage of them!

To spend all of our time caught up in contention with our fellow brethren is a sin. (1 Jn. 4:11) You can even find yourself dragging others into the fray that are not Christians! No wonder Paul tells the Corinthian brethren that they are suffering defeat by acting in such an ungodly manner. In 1 Corinthians 6:7-8 Paul writes, *"To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!"*

By dragging our arguments before those who are not Christians we not only hurt ourselves, but we also hurt the cause of Christ. We bring a reputation of Christ's church as being a contentious and unruly people that do not love one another.

Paul's point is that Christians are crazy to seek counsel on conflict resolution from those who are not inheriting the kingdom of God. As Psalm 1:1 explains, *"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night."* We left that path of wickedness by the washing, sanctification, and justification of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 6:11). Why would we now seek the counsel of those who are lingering on that unrighteous path? Paul's point is when Christians have conflict, as we inevitably will, don't resolve it based upon

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advice from the unrighteous, but seek counsel from our wise brothers and sisters in Christ.



## Spotlight On A Bible Verse:

### 2 Timothy 2:15

***“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”***

Paul’s words to Timothy are a needed reminder to us. Let us “study” or be diligent to show ourselves approved of God. Being “approved” (accepted, pleasing) of God takes a vigilant effort. We cannot “phone it in” as a Christian! Rather, we must be active. We see the level of activity needed when Paul calls for the diligent person to be a “workman” in this text. Being a Christian is not for the lazy! There is much to do as a child of God, and we need to be about doing His will!

If we’re lazy and shirk our duties as Christians, then shame on us! The “workman”, though, has no reason to be ashamed, for he is “rightly dividing,” or handling accurately the “word of truth.” Timothy needed to handle God’s word accurately or correctly, and so do we! Are we doing this? How much time are we giving to a diligent and proper study of God’s word? Are we living what we learn? A true workman lives what he learns! Let us take the time to study II Timothy 2:15 again. There is much there for the child of God to apply to daily living.

– Jarrod Jacobs



**“I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!”**

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[www.youtube.com/theoldpaths1994](http://www.youtube.com/theoldpaths1994)

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